

BRIEFLY FROM INDUSTRY

Matthew Hall win £8m order

Matthew Hall have been awarded an £8m export order by Fibres Esso. They will act as main contractor for the detailed engineering design, procurement and construction of a synthetic fibres plant to be built at Saragossa. The plant is to go into production next year.

Plant to close

Wellman Engineering yesterday announced a rationalization policy that will take effect on July 7. It will involve closing the Wellman Machines works in Billay and the concentration of Wellman Machines production at Darlaston. About 270 workers will be made redundant. Mr. W. S. Hindson, managing director, said the action had been made necessary by the low level of demand in the home market, particularly from the steel industry.

Banana centre

Gent Industries, of Spalding, are to build a new £350,000 banana ripening and fruit distribution centre at St. Helen's, Lancashire, which they say will be the largest in Europe. It will have a capacity of 50,000 stems of fruit a week and will replace the existing Gent centre at Preston.

Ulster to Moscow

Five representatives of the Ulster linen industry are in Moscow on a two-week technical and commercial visit. They are Mr. O. Seccombe, Sir Ivan Ewart, Mr. Peter Larnor, Mr. Jeremy Bryson and Mr. C. M. Rhodes.

Fairfield all-clear

The Ministry of Labour has informed Fairfield's, of Glasgow, that it has no objection to the work scheme in Fairfield's shipyard. Mr. E. O. T. Blanford, general manager, commented yesterday: "We are naturally delighted that the Ministry has given us the necessary clearance. We will introduce the scheme with effect from June 16. It forms an integral part of a programme to increase productivity and wages."

Colour TV hopes

Robert Sarnoff, president of Radio Corporation of America, expects to produce record colour television sets in the United States this year. "With barely 17 per cent of the colour market covered to date, there is still 83 per cent to go," he said at a distributors' meeting at Las Vegas yesterday.

Computer success

The computer costing service introduced by the British Federation of Master Printers has been adopted successfully by more than 70 firms. This week it celebrates its one hundredth processing run.

Wire mill planned

British Ropes are negotiating to buy a site at Pentliffe, co. Durham, for development. The plan is to establish a small specialised wire mill. In time, the site should provide an opportunity for increased output for any group products, the company says.

250 jobs

Jobs for 250 workers will be made possible by a £2,300,000 expansion scheme at the Caterpillar Tractor works at Birtley, co. Durham. The company has placed the expansion contract with R. M. Douglas Construction, of Birmingham. The plant makes earth-moving equipment.

Liaison plea

Henry Raine, a director of L.C.I. Plastics, yesterday made a plea for better contact between the supplier, designer and fabricator of plastics. Good design was the "true kernel of acceptability", he said at Tint, Hertfordshire.

£300,000 contract

The Steel Company of Wales has placed a contract valued at more than £300,000 with Head Wrightson, Torsdale, of Thornaby-on-Tees. It is for the supply of seven mixer-cars for transporting molten iron between the blast furnaces and the new steel plant at Abbey Works. The cars will weigh 450 tons each.

Crack colliery

Lord Robens, chairman of the National Coal Board, will visit Ellington colliery, the north-east's top productivity pit tomorrow. With reserves in excess of 46m. tons, it has, the N.C.B. says, an assured life. It employs 1,500 miners and has a planned viable output of 1,200,000 tons a year.

New unit for ICI

Imperial Chemical Industries are commissioning a plant at Runcorn, Cheshire, to manufacture a liquefied gas used in fire-fighting. The plant will meet the demands of the growing home market and enable exports development.

£320,000 project

Esso's Milford Haven refinery is installing a Ferranti computer to control its main processing operations from a single centre. The whole project will cost £320,000 and will be completed by the middle of next year. Increased productivity is expected to follow.

£1m plants order

The Robert Roby section of the Vickers group has been awarded a contract worth more than £1m. for two whisky malling plants for Scottish Malt Distillers, the malt whisky producing subsidiary of the Distillers Co. The plants, at Malt-C-Oed in Rose-shire and Hillside near Montrose, will cost more than £1m. They are the remains of Distillers planned expansion this year—projected at Stonehaven and Alness have been cancelled.

Briefly From Industry.

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